

STRONG RESOLVE IN THE FACE OF TERRORISM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I conclude every floor speech with the reminder, "God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11," because I strongly believe that we must remember the lessons of that tragic day to protect American families.

After witnessing a handful of terrorists murder thousands of innocent Americans, our Nation immediately took action to defeat terrorism at home and abroad. Yesterday, I observed hundreds of terrorists now detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and witnessed the tremendous progress our Nation is making in defending our freedom and defeating terrorism.

Last week's brutal attacks on the streets of London demonstrated that we must remain on the offensive against terrorists who seek to murder innocent civilians and destroy our way of life. Terrorists who believe they can break our will through cowardly attacks are mistaken. As President Bush said, "America will not retreat in the face of terrorists and murderers. And neither will the free world."

In conclusion, God bless our troops; we will never forget September 11 and London's July 7.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

(Mr. SALAZAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to the Medal of Honor recipients and the values that the Medal of Honor symbolizes. On this date in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln approved the legislation that created the Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest military medal. The Medal of Honor is awarded for acts of valor and gallantry above and beyond the call of duty. In its 140-plus-year history, only 3,441 individuals have been awarded this distinguished medal; 121 of those individuals are still alive today.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to these brave individuals and to those men and women currently serving our Nation overseas. The Nation's highest award is facing a serious challenge to its meaning and symbol. I am outraged by the impostors who claim they have received this and other honors the military awards for deeds and actions of soldiers. These criminals not only dishonor themselves, but they dishonor the sacrifice that true recipients have made.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I plan to introduce the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 next week. This piece of legislation will make it easier for Federal law en-

forcement officials to prosecute phonies and impostors and restore the true meaning of these illustrious awards.

I hope my colleagues can join me in this effort to reclaim the meaning of honor and bravery and sacrifice in these United States.

RETURN TO FLIGHT

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I wish all the best for NASA and the crew of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* and the men and women of Kennedy Space Center on attempting to launch tomorrow. Those of us who support the program understand how critically important it is for the United States to have a continuing human presence in space.

After the loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in February of 2003, we have not been able to launch our astronauts into space for almost 2½ years. With a successful launch tomorrow, we will once again show the world that our program and the dedicated people behind it are second to none and that our space shuttle fleet is unrivaled when it comes to technology and mission capability. This launch will be an important first step, a first step in the new vision for space exploration articulated by President Bush in January of 2004, a vision that is not only taking us back to low Earth orbit and the space station but that will lead us back to the Moon and one day on to Mars.

Again, I know I speak for all Americans when we wish the crew of *Discovery* God speed and a safe mission.

COLLAPSE OF A COVER-UP

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, in the last 48 hours we have witnessed the sad collapse of a cover-up. On September 29, 2003, Press Secretary Scott McClellan said that he had spoken with the deputy chief of staff of the White House and it was simply not true that he had anything to do with the disclosure of the identity of a CIA agent. He characterized it as "totally ridiculous." And again on October 10, 2003, he said the White House had nothing to do with this terrible disclosure.

The President was then asked on June 10, 2004, whether he would stand by the promise to the American people to fire someone responsible for this disclosure, and he answered with a simple "yes."

The American people do not want sensitivity training after this sad disclosure of a CIA agent. They need full accountability. The jig is up. The deputy chief of staff needs to come in front of Congress and answer questions about this. And this is not just a matter of a simple violation of Federal law. It is a

sad violation of democracy to try to punish a truth-teller, Joe Wilson, who blew the whistle on the "yellow cake" false statement made by the President. We know that that is wrong because Mr. McClellan said this is not the way the White House operates. We beg to differ.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE 527 FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, all of us remember the summer of 527s. Groups organized on the left and right under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code spent nearly \$400 million in the midst of the Presidential campaigns while the Nation's two major political parties, its most respected labor unions, associations, businesses, and constitutional groups seemed to stand on the sideline in mute amazement.

In response to that summer of 527s, some here in Washington, D.C. want to exert even more regulation and control, and that is certainly their right to pursue. But the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) and I have a different approach. We believe that the only proper response to inequities in the political economy of a free society is more freedom, not less freedom.

□ 1015

The Pence-Wynn bill is our effort to restore freedom and fairness to political parties and outside organizations, to give them the opportunity to compete more effectively with not only 527 organizations but their progeny that may arise if the Congress decides even yet to regulate them.

Thomas Jefferson said, "I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than those attending too small a degree of it."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to consider the Pence-Wynn Freedom resolution.

REPUBLICAN PLAN TO MOVE SOCIAL SECURITY INSOLVENCY CLOSER

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, congressional Republicans have shown their hand once again. It is now clear that Republicans have no desire to strengthen Social Security for future generations. Instead, their only intentions are to privatize the guaranteed retirement program.

The Republicans' risky privatization scheme would create private accounts financed by diverting money out of Social Security. It does absolutely nothing to extend solvency of Social Security. In fact, the Republican proposal would actually move Social Security